

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

TRANSLATION
PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

04F064-PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/IB2004/004001

International filing date (day/month/year)

06.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

05.12.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

KABUSHIKIKAISHA KENWOOD

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-33	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	3, 8, 10, 11, 15	YES
	Claims	1, 2, 4-7, 9, 12-14, 16-33	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-33	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>Document 1: JP 2002-258892 A (Alpine Electronics, Inc.) 11 September 2002, Full text; all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2001-117584 A (Alpine Electronics, Inc.) 27 April 2001, Full text; all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2000-181500 A (Equos Research Kabushiki Kaisha) 30 June 2000, Full text; all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>The subject matter of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 12-14 and 16-33 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1-3 cited in the ISR.</p> <p>This means that documents 1-3 describe "a machine controlled device which carries out processing according to spoken commands inputted, wherein a transfer address is designated in accordance with the status of the device (ambient environment, machine operation condition which carries out each of the processing items) when transfer is made from one of a plurality of processing items to another processing item". Furthermore, documents 1-3 do not for example describe an "address definition data storage means", however, based on similar operational contents, it is recognized to have the same type of configuration and function.</p> <p>In addition, "frequency information" in document 1 is recognized to be equivalent to the "score" in claims 2, 7, 17 and 18 and others.</p> <p>Furthermore, carrying out a weighting when recognition candidates are determined in the technical field of voice recognition and determining by accumulating predetermined constants and others is carried out as a matter of course. As a result, using these when determining the "transfer address for the processing item is recognized to be easily conceived of by a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>Furthermore, a "flowchart" cannot indicate a processing procedure so that this is a design detail which could be easily carried out by a person skilled in the art.</p>			

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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

“W64” in Figure 10 (b) is a typographical error.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

It is not clear (specifically, the configuration is not specified) whether “processing for handling information to be inputted” and “input information recognition means” described in claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17 and 19-33 refers to processing or recognition of the “inputted information” for any of the types and characteristics indicated. Furthermore, claims 4, 12 and 18 mention that the inputted information consists of “voice signals” so that the prior art search was carried out as “inputted information = voice signals” (this is considered to be based on the same art even for claims 6, 22 and 26 in which no specification whatsoever is made for “inputted information”).

Elsewhere, the meaning of “conditions accommodating input (claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 19, 21-23, 25-27 and 29)” is not clear.